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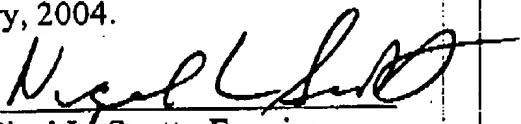
In re patent application of Edward T. Buford, III  
Serial No. 09/912,692  
Filed: 7/26/2001

This acknowledges receipt of the following:

- ☒ First Amendment
- ☐ Revised Drawing
- ☒ Fee in the amount of \$55.00 Check No. 12086

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the Applicant's Response to First Office Action (First Amendment) was mailed to the United States Department of Commerce Patents and Trademarks, Office Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20031 this 23rd day January, 2004.

  
Nigel L. Scott, Esquire

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#9

In re: Patent Application of Edward T. Buford, III

Serial No: 09/912,692

Group Art Unit: 3747

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Filed: 7/26/2001

Examiner: R. Chin

JAN 23 2004

Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20321

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

OFFICIAL

Please accept the Applicant's Response to First Office Action (First Amendment) along with  
Request for Extension of Time and Check # 12086 for \$55.00 filing fee in the above action.

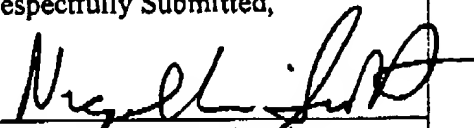
Respectfully Submitted,

  
NIGEL L. SCOTT, Esquire  
Pat. Bar # 27,385  
Attorney for Applicant  
7306 Georgia Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20012-1617  
(202) 882-5770  
(202) 722-0040 Fax

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Accordingly it is respectfully requested that the Response to the First Office Action and  
Amendment to the Claims be accepted for filing.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
NIGEL L. SCOTT, Esquire  
Pat. Bar # 27,385  
Attorney for Applicant  
7306 Georgia Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20012-1617  
(202) 882-5770  
(202) 722-0040 Fax

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent Application of Edward T. Buford, III

Serial No: 09/912,692

Group Art Unit: 3747

Filed: 7/26/2001

Examiner: R. Chin

Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20321

Sir:

**RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION  
(FIRST AMENDMENT)**

This is in response to the First Office Action mailed September 30, 2003 in respect of the above-identified patent application:

**SPECIFICATION**

Based upon the discussions between Applicant and counsel, the two drawings labeled "4A" and "5A" are now considered unnecessary for the allowance of the invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that drawings "4A" and "5A" be withdrawn.

Additionally, in light of the withdrawal of drawings "4A" and "5A" no changes will be made to the Specification.

**CLAIMS**

In the subject Office Action, claims 1-5 and claim 8 of the application have been rejected based upon claims 35 USC 112. Claims 1-5 have also been rejected based upon